

## CLAMP DEVICE AND CLAMP METHOD FOR HEAT-TREATED ARTICLE

## **ABSTRACT**

A heat treatment operation can be executed, suppressing a wave-shaped deformation at a non heat-treatment region of an article to be heat treated. To an elongated-shaped article to be heat treated (10) to which a raised portion (11) extending in the longitudinal direction is formed, a hardening region, as a heat-treated region defined to extend in a longitudinal direction at a part of the raised portion-(11), and a nonhardening region, as a nonheat-treated region defined to extend in the longitudinal direction at flange portion (13), and other parts of the raised portion (11)—are arranged side by side in a width direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction. The flange portion (13)—is clamped by a first and a second clamp (22), (23) arranged in the longitudinal direction, and one first clamp  $\frac{(22)}{}$  is a tight clamp for holding fixedly the flange portion (13)—and a plurality of second clamps  $\frac{(23)}{}$  are loose clamps for clamping loosely the flange portion—(13), allowing the article to be heat treated (10)—to be convex on the side of the heated hardening region.